

REMARKS

This is a Preliminary Amendment filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). This Preliminary Amendment is, in part, a response to the Final Office Action of March 28, 2006. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and all presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1, 10-11, and 31-32 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 2-9 and 12-30 are canceled. The prior art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims. Applicants believe that no new matter has been added by the amendments and that a new search is not necessary.

CLAIMS

Claim 1

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as purportedly being anticipated by Moszner et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0167100) and Thies et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0142274). Amended claim 1 reads as follows:

1. A method of producing a three-dimensional object, comprising the steps of:
 - providing a norbornene based curable material including at least one initiator and at least one norbornene based build material, wherein the norbornene based curable material is a multi-part norbornene based curable material;
 - dispensing a layer of the at least one norbornene build material, wherein the norbornene based build material is dispensed from a first ink-jet printhead;*
 - dispensing a layer of the initiator onto the layer of the at least one norbornene build material thereby forming a multi-part norbornene based curable material, wherein the initiator is dispensed from a second ink-jet printhead,* wherein the at least one initiator and the at least one norbornene based build material are commingled to form the multi-part norbornene based curable material;
 - and
 - curing the norbornene based curable material to produce the three-dimensional object.

(Emphasis added). Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 1 and claim 6. Therefore, a new search is not necessary and the amendment should be entered and considered.

Applicants traverse each of the §102 rejections in the Office Action and submit that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) in view of each Moszner and Thies should be withdrawn because none of the references, individually or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest each and every feature of claim 1 above. In this regard, Moszner and Thies do not, individually or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest “dispensing a layer of the at least one norbornene build material, wherein the norbornene based build material is dispensed from a first ink-jet printhead...dispensing a layer of the initiator onto the layer of the at least one norbornene build material thereby forming a multi-part norbornene based curable material, wherein the initiator is dispensed from a second ink-jet printhead...” as recited in claim 1.

In regard to Moszner, it appears that the Office Action is suggesting that paragraph [0013] of Moszner teaches an ink-jet printhead. However, Moszner never mentions ink-jet printheads. In contrast to teaching ink-jet printheads, Moszner teaches a pneumatic air supply system for application of the material using forced air [0013]. One skilled in the art would not confuse or substitute ink-jet printheads for pneumatic air supply systems. In addition, Moszner does not teach dispensing a layer of norbornene build material, dispensing an initiator on the norbornene build material, and then curing the commingled mixture. The Office Action has not provided a citation in Moszner that describes each of these steps. Thus, Moszner does not disclose, teach, or suggest, at least the limitations and combinations of limitations highlighted above in claim 1, and therefore, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

In regard to Thies, Thies does not teach dispensing a layer of norbornene build material, dispensing an initiator on the norbornene build material, and then curing the commingled mixture. Thies appears to disclose a chemical composition that can be applied to a substrate and

then cured, but does not teach the application of the norbornene build material and the initiator separately from different ink-jet printheads as recited in claim 1. The Office Action has not provided a citation in Thies that describes each of these steps and components used in each step. Thus, Thies does not disclose, teach, or suggest, at least the limitations and combinations of limitations highlighted above in claim 1, and therefore, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Thus, Moszner and Thies do not, individually or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest, at least the limitations highlighted above in claim 1, and therefore, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 10 and 11

Applicants traverse each of the §102 rejections in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that pending dependent claims 10 and 11 include every feature of independent claim 1 and that Moszner and Thies each fail to disclose, teach, or suggest, individually or in combination, at least the features of claim 1 highlighted hereinabove. Thus, pending dependent claims 10 and 11 are also allowable over the prior art of record. In re Fine, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

New Claim 31

New claim 31 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 1 and claim 6. Therefore, a new search is not necessary and the amendment should be entered and considered. The cited references do not teach “dispensing the layer of an initiator, wherein the initiator is dispensed from a first ink-jet printhead...dispensing a layer of the at least one norbornene build material onto the layer of the initiator thereby forming a multi-part norbornene based curable material, wherein the norbornene build material is dispensed from a second ink-jet

printhead...curing the norbornene based curable material...,” as recited in claim 31. The cited references do not teach the application of the norbornene build material and the initiator separately from different ink-jet printheads as recited in claim 31. Thus, claim 31 is in condition for allowance.

New Claim 32

New claim 32 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 1 and claim 8. Therefore, a new search is not necessary and the amendment should be entered and considered. The cited references do not teach “dispensing a layer of the initiator and the at least one norbornene build material simultaneously, wherein the initiator is dispensed from a first ink-jet printhead, wherein the norbornene build material is dispensed from a second ink-jet printhead... and curing the norbornene based curable material to produce the three-dimensional object...,” as recited in claim 32. The cited references do not teach the application of the norbornene build material and the initiator simultaneously from different ink-jet printheads as recited in claim 32. Thus, claim 32 is in condition for allowance.

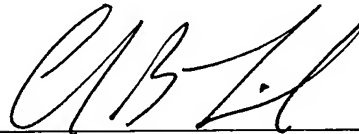
Conclusion

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested.

In addition, any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly addressed herein are not intended to be admitted. In addition, any and all findings of inherency are traversed as not having been shown to be necessarily present. Furthermore, any and all findings of well-known art and official notice, or statements interpreted similarly, should not be considered well known since the Office Action does not include specific factual findings predicated on sound technical and scientific reasoning to support such conclusions.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C.B. Linder', written over a horizontal line.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the below listed items are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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on 6/23/06

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In Re Application of:

Oliver, et al.

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Docket No. HP: 200309784-1
TKHR: 050834-1050

For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR USING NORBORNENE BASED CURABLE MATERIALS

The following is a list of documents enclosed:

Return Postcard
Amendment
RCE Transmittal Sheet